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THE DAUGHTER OF MEATH.

Turgesius, the chief of a turbulent band,
Came over from Norway and conquer'd the land ;
Rebellion had smoothened the invader's career,
The natives shrank from him, in hate, or in fear ;
While Erin's proud spirit seemed slumbering in peace,
In secret it panted for death—or release.

The tumult of battle was hushed for a while—
Turgesius was monarch of Erin's fair isle ;
The sword of the conqueror slept in its sheath,
His triumphs were honoured with trophy and wreath ;
The princes of Erin despaired of relief,
And knelt to the lawless Norwegian chief.

His heart knew the charm of a woman's sweet smile,
But ne'er till he came to this beautiful isle,
Did he know with what mild, yet resistless controul,
That sweet smile can conquer a conqueror's soul—
And, oh ! 'mid the sweet smiles most sure to enthrall,
He soon met with one—he thought sweetest of all.

The brave Prince of Meath had a daughter as fair
As the pearls from Loch Neagh which encircled her hair ;
The tyrant beheld her, and cried, "She shall come
To reign as the Queen of my gay mountain home ;
Ere sunset to-morrow hath crimson'd the sea,
Melachlin, send forth thy young daughter to me !"

Awhile paused the Prince—too indignant to speak,
There burned a reply in his glance—on his cheek ;
But quickly that hurried expression was gone,
And calm was his manner, and mild was his tone ;
He answer'd—"Ere sunset hath crimson'd the sea
To-morrow—I'll send my young daughter to thee !"

"At sunset to-morrow your palace forsake,
With twenty young chiefs seek the Isle on yon lake ;
And there, in its coolest and pleasantest shades,
My child shall await you with twenty fair maids :
Yes—bright as my armour the damsels shall be,
I send with my daughter, Turgesius, to thee."

Turgesius returned to his palace ;—to him
The sports of that evening seemed languid and dim ;
And tediously long was the darkness of night,
And slowly the morning unfolded its light ;
The sun seemed to linger—as if it would be
An age ere his setting would crimson the sea.

At length came the moment—the king and his band
With rapture pushed off their light boat from the land ;
And bright shone the gems on their armour, and bright
Flashed their fast-moving oars in the setting sun's light ;
And long ere they landed, they saw through the trees,
The maidens' white garments that waved in the breeze.

More strong in the lake was the dash of each oar,
More swift the gay vessel flew on to the shore ;
Its keel touched the pebbles—but over the surf
The youths in a moment had leaped to the turf,
And rushed to a shady retreat in the wood,
Where many veiled forms mute and motionless stood.

"Say, which is Melachlin's fair daughter ?—away
With these veils," cried Turgesius, "no longer delay ;
Resistance is vain, we will quickly behold
Which robe hides the loveliest face in its fold ;
These clouds shall no longer o'ershadow our bliss,
Let each seize a veil—and my trophy be this !"

He seized a white veil, and before him appeared
No fearful, weak girl—but a foe to be feared !
A youth—who sprang forth from his female disguise,
Like lightning that flashes from calm summer skies ;
His hand grasped a weapon, and wild was the joy
That shone in the glance of the warrior-boy.

And under each white robe a youth was concealed,
Who met his opponent with sword, and with shield.
Turgesius was slain—and the maidens were blest,
Melachlin's fair daughter more blithe than the rest ;
And ere the last sunbeam had crimsoned the sea,
They hailed the boy-victors, and Erin was free !



MILLTOWN,

Situated little more than a mile from the Circular-road, and about two miles from the Castle, is the pass to the County Wicklow, through Dundrum, the Scalp, and Enniskerry. A few years since it was much frequented by the citizens, as a place of recreation and amusement ; but the scene of attraction is now changed to Kingstown. To

the left of the bridge which crosses the Dodder, there was one of those raths or forts so common in this country, to which we have had occasion frequently to refer. So little of its original form now remains, however, that it would scarcely be noticed by the passing traveller.